

GARNETT RESIGNS TO TAKE POSITION WITH GOETHALS

Chairman of State Corporation Commission Enters New Service as Lieutenant-Colonel.

TO RESIDE IN WASHINGTON

Becomes Member of Contract Adjustment Board—Chosen Because of Training—Governor to Appoint Successor to Serve Until 1919.

Christopher B. Garnett, chairman of the State Corporation Commission, resigned yesterday and has accepted an appointment made by Major-General George W. Goethals to membership in the board of contract adjustment. The appointment carries with it the rank of lieutenant-colonel. The resignation of Chairman Garnett did not come as a distinct surprise as the matter had been quietly talked about at the Capitol for several days. The name of Oscar L. Shewmaker, general counsel for the commission, has been discussed in connection with the vacancy which has been created by the resignation of the chairman. Mr. Shewmaker is an expert on all matters pertaining to the work of the commission.

The board of which Mr. Garnett will become a member sits at Washington, and is composed of three men. It will pass upon such claims and disputes as may arise in the War Department, and which the contractors may desire to submit.

In offering the position to Mr. Garnett, General Goethals said:

"The work is considered to be of a very great importance. It will be of a character for which you, by your training and experience, will be peculiarly adapted. You have been selected as one of the members of the board. It is urged that you give your acceptance. This is a call to duty which I am confident you will heed."

The acceptance of his new position means that Mr. Garnett will have to move to Washington. His salary as chairman was \$4,500 per annum and it is understood that his compensation under his new office will be the regular army pay for a lieutenant-colonel. Mr. Garnett was appointed to the State Corporation Commission by Governor Stuart in 1916 to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge R. T. Prentiss, who became a member of the Supreme Court of Appeals. His term of office would have expired on February 1, 1922. His successor will be appointed by Governor Davis to serve until the general election in 1919.

The retiring chairman is a B. A. and M. A. of the University of Virginia, and he received his B. L. degree at Richmond College. From 1914 to 1916 he was Assistant Attorney-General of Virginia. In 1916 he became attorney for the State Tax Board. Last winter he was appointed a member of the State Council of Defense.

Mr. Garnett was editor of Wadley's Guide to Magistrates and editor of the Virginia Law Register. He was, in

addition, annotator of the Criminal Code of Virginia.

ELECT TWO MEMBERS OF COMMISSION NEXT YEAR

A new and highly interesting situation in public affairs in Virginia is created by the resignation of Mr. Garnett. It means that two of the three members of the State Corporation Commission will be elected by the voters of the State on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1919. This results from the passage of the act of the legislature at its session last winter, providing that hereafter members of the commission shall be elected by the people. The act further says: "When a vacancy shall occur after the passage of this act, the same shall be filled by appointment by the Governor, provided in section 155 of the Constitution, until the expiration of twenty days after the next general election held not less than sixty days after the vacancy occurs, at which election the vacancy shall be filled for the residue of the unexpired term."

Since it is less than sixty days to the next regular election in November, 1919, the appointee of Governor Davis will hold office until November 24, 1919, when the man elected on November 4 of that year will begin serving the remainder of the unexpired term of Mr. Garnett, which ends January 31, 1922. The present term of Commissioner William P. Rhea will end January 31, 1920, and his successor will also be elected on November 4, 1919. Both commissioners will be virtually chosen in the Democratic primary to be held on the first Monday in August next.

Added interest will be felt as a result of choosing two-thirds of the commission in one day and in the fact that all sorts of complications in politics may result from Judge Rhea and the Governor's appointee, being candidates at the same time, at the first election after it was provided for choosing commissioners by the people.

Commissioner Alexander Forward, the third member, began his term of six years on February 1 last.

A matter that will come up immediately will be the election of a chairman of the commission to succeed Mr. Garnett, and this must be done as soon as the Governor's appointee qualifies. The chairman is elected by the commission.

Commissioner Garnett's letter of resignation, addressed to Governor Davis, follows:

Having accepted an appointment as a member of the board of contract adjustment in the War Department, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, I hereby tender to you my resignation as a member of the State Corporation Commission, to become effective when I shall be called for duty in Washington. The exact time when my resignation is to become effective will be given you as soon as I hear definitely from the War Department.

In tendering my resignation, I wish to state that only a sense of duty impels me to resign from the high and honorable position which I now occupy. While, under the act approved March 16, 1918 (acts 1918, chapter 362, page 540), I would be allowed to engage in this service without resigning my office, I do not wish to embarrass you or my successor by availing myself of the privilege allowed by the act.

Help Uncle Sam solve the housing problem by renting out your spare rooms. The Times-Dispatch Want Ad will bring the kind of tenant you want.

DIED OF APOPLEXY

William C. West Buried in New York Before Friends Learned His Home Was Here.

News was received here yesterday of the death in New York of William C. West, formerly of Richmond, a son of Third Street. Mr. West was stricken with apoplexy and heart trouble and died eight hours after being rushed to a hospital the night of September 11.

Not regaining consciousness, no intimation as to his home or relatives was obtainable. After friends had searched for six days for a clue he was buried in Calvary Cemetery, New York, September 17.

Several days later his belongings were sent back to his boarding-house, his friends having taken charge of his body pending inquiries as to his home address. At his boarding-house an envelope bearing the return address of his mother was found. This led to the disclosure of his family connections in Richmond ten days after his burial.

Besides his mother, Mr. West is survived by his wife, Ella N. West, of 115 West Main Street; his sister, Mrs. Z. E. Woodall, of Barton Heights, and two brothers, both of this city. His mother leaves for New York to-day to arrange to bring the body to Richmond for re-interment.

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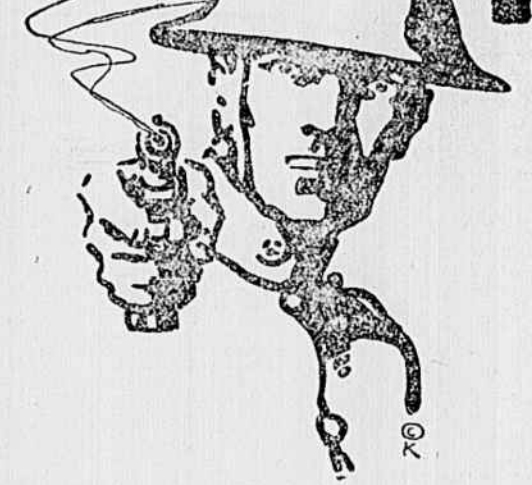
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